

REMARKS

Claims 35-43 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 35, 37, 38, 39, and 41 being amended, and new Claims 42 and 43 being added. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 35-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Moller (U.S. Patent No. 6,598,074) in view of Timis et al. (U.S. Patent no. 5,792,971). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

As previously communicated, the present invention as claimed is directed to apparatus and software for facilitating joint composition of a musical piece by a plurality of users. Specifically, music data is composed and edited on a server in response to instructions from a plurality of client terminals. The server updates the music data each time the music data is edited by a user, and sends the latest version of the revised music data in response to an update request from a client terminal.

In this instant amendment, the claims have been further amended to specify that a parentage relation is set among the plural client apparatuses such that one of the apparatuses becomes a parent, and the other client apparatus becomes a child. As with parent-child relationship in such systems, the parent and child apparatus have different rights associated with their status. In this instance, the parent client apparatus has a right to enable the server apparatus to execute a specific process associated with the music composing work, while the child client apparatus has no such right. In accordance with such an arrangement, the present invention enables discrimination among the plural device to confer higher capabilities of composing music data to certain client apparatuses in order to carry out a hierarchy order structure to the creation of music composition.

Moller discloses a method for producing music sequencer data via collaboration by plural users on a network, while Timis discloses a method of acquiring and saving original performance information from a musical instrument via a personal computer. Neither Moller nor Timis contain any disclosure or suggestion of establishing a parentage relationship among plural client apparatuses, wherein one apparatus is a parent, while the other apparatus is a child. Moreover, neither reference teach or suggest conferring, to the parent client apparatus, the specific right of enabling a server to execute a specific process associated with music composing work, while withholding such right from the child client apparatus.

Furthermore, neither Moller nor Timis contain any disclosure or suggestion of using both a composing display screen (for displaying a music score) and a chat screen (for chatting with other client apparatuses in association with music composing work). Applicants note that the Examiner, in the Detailed Action, did not specifically address the chat screen feature as previously recited in Claims 37 and 41.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 35-41 are not obvious in view of Moller and Timis.

New Claims 42 and 43 have been added to claim further aspects of the present invention, and are submitted as in condition for allowance for the same reasons provided above.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 393032021900. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: June 10, 2008

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